

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A hole cover for a vehicle, for covering an opening on a panel through which a steering element is to pass, comprising:

an elastic seal portion having a steering penetration portion through which said steering element passes and being in close contact with a sealing surface formed on the edge of the opening of said panel; and

a plurality of latch projections adapted to be pressed against said panel substantially along the axis of said steering element so as to be caught in a latch recess formed in the vicinity of said edge of the opening.

2. (Original) A hole cover for a vehicle, for covering an opening on a panel through which a steering element is to pass, comprising:

an elastic seal portion having a steering penetration portion through which said steering element passes and being in close contact with a sealing surface formed on the edge of the opening of said panel; and

a latch recess adapted to be pressed against said panel substantially along the axis of said steering

element so that a plurality of latch projections formed in the vicinity of said edge of the opening are caught in the latch recess.

3. (Currently Amended) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein when said latch projections are caught in said latch recess, at least one of sound and vibration is produced.

4. (Currently Amended) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said elastic sealing portion is in contact with a sealing surface having a circular shape, and said latch projections are caught in said latch recess having an annular shape.

5. (Currently Amended) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said steering penetration portion is in sliding contact with said steering element in a rotational direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, further comprising an elastic deforming portion that allows movement of said steering penetration portion relative to said elastic seal portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said elastic seal

portion is formed on a seal body made of an elastic material, and said latch projection or said latch recess is formed on a seal retaining member that is externally fitted on the seal body.

8. (Original) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 7, wherein a retaining member bias means for biasing said seal retaining member in a direction away from said panel is formed on said seal body.

9. (Currently Amended) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein said latch projection is exposed in the assembled state.

10. (Original) A hole cover for a vehicle, for covering an opening on a panel through which a steering element is to pass, comprising:

an elastic seal portion having a steering penetration portion through which said steering element passes and being in close contact with a sealing surface formed on the edge of the opening of said panel; and

a latch member adapted to be pressed against said panel substantially along the axis of said steering element.

11. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein when said latch projections are caught in said latch recess, at least one of sound and vibration is produced.

12. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein said elastic sealing portion is in contact with a sealing surface having a circular shape, and said latch projections are caught in said latch recess having an annular shape.

13. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein said steering penetration portion is in sliding contact with said steering element in a rotational direction.

14. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 2, further comprising an elastic deforming portion that allows movement of said steering penetration portion relative to said elastic seal portion.

15. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein said elastic seal portion is formed on a seal body made of an elastic material, and said latch projection or said latch recess is formed on a seal retaining member that is externally fitted on the seal body.

16. (Original) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 15, wherein a retaining member bias means for biasing said seal retaining member in a direction away from said panel is formed on said seal body.

17. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein said latch projection is exposed in the assembled state.